

HLPF 2024 Side event

Partnerships for Addressing the Waste Crisis and Accelerating Circularity: A New Policy Support Initiative for Data and Action

Friday, 12 July 2024 – 13:15 – 14:30pm EST

Conference room 8
United Nations General Assembly Building

The objective of this side event is to launch a new policy support platform and publication aimed at assisting UN Member States to bridge data, technical, capacity and finance gaps in advancing resource circularity in solid waste management (SWM), through a life-cycle approach.

- Humanity generates an estimated 2.3 billion tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) annually and waste generation could rise by more than 77% by the end of 2050.¹
- Only 62% of MSW is managed in controlled facilities across the world.²
- Approximately, 90% of waste in low-income countries is discarded in unregulated dumps or burned openly.³
- The waste sector contributes an estimated 20% of human-caused methane emissions.⁴

These trends and statistics underscore an alarming situation that disproportionately affects poor and vulnerable communities, particularly women and children working informally in waste picking. Inadequate data potentially underestimates the waste crisis and limits the reach and impact of policy for these communities and the ability to address negative environmental externalities. Therefore, the event will also examine the interlinkages between climate change, poverty and solid waste management. It will also explore solutions, at global and national levels – including the ongoing negotiations related to the Global Plastics Treaty.

While waste is directly related to key targets under the SDGs, in reality waste management and resource circularity impacts all 17 SDGs. Improving national waste management is essential to confront the triple planetary crisis of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. This striking reality urgently calls for national governments to accelerate their progress on evidence-based policy for a waste to resources approach.

¹ United Nations Environment Programme (2024). Global Waste Management Outlook 2024: Beyond an age of waste – Turning rubbish into a resource. Nairobi. <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/44939>

² Ibid.

³ World Bank, 2019. Accessed April 15 2024 at:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/brief/solid-waste-management>

⁴ <https://www.nasa.gov/missions/emit/nasa-sensors-to-help-detect-methane-emitted-by-landfills/>

Agenda

Friday, 12 July 2024 (13:15 – 14:30pm) Conference room 8 (General Assembly Building – Lower level B1)
Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, Division for SDGs, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)• Ambassador Hyunwoo Cho, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
Keynote Speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Max Andonirina Fontaine, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar• H.E. Mr. Saber Chowdhury, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bangladesh
Launch of the Initiative and Publication – <i>“The Waste Crisis: Accelerating National to Local Policy Action and Evidence-based strategies for sustainable solutions”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD, UNDESA• Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Head, One Planet Network, UN Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), UNEP• Mr. Jeff Seadon, PhD., Lead Author and Scientist
Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Marcus Newbury, Statistician, Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, UN DESA• Ms. Aditi Ramola, Director, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)• Ms. Dana Chadwick, PhD., Scientist, EMIT Mission Applications Lead, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Co-organizers

- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN,
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), Republic of Madagascar
- United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, Division for SDGs, UN DESA
- UN Statistics Division, UN DESA
- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- UNEP

Contact

For more information contact: sara.castrohallgren@un.org or wonju.kim@un.org